

Dated: February 27, 1996.
Richard W. Surdi,
*Acting Director, Office of Fisheries
Conservation and Management, National
Marine Fisheries Service.*
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50 CFR Part 675

[Docket No. 960129019-6019-01; I.D.
022396F]

Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Eastern Aleutian District

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries
Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration (NOAA),
Commerce.

ACTION: Modification of a closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is opening directed
fishing for Pacific ocean perch in the
Eastern Aleutian District of the Bering
Sea and Aleutian Islands management
area (BSAI). This action is necessary to
fully utilize the total allowable catch
(TAC) of Pacific ocean perch in this
area.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12 noon, Alaska local
time (A.l.t.), February 29, 1996, until 12
midnight, A.l.t., December 31, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Andrew N. Smoker, 907 586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The
groundfish fishery in the BSAI exclusive
economic zone is managed by NMFS
according to the Fishery Management
Plan for the Groundfish Fishery of the
Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area
(FMP) prepared by the North Pacific
Fishery Management Council under
authority of the Magnuson Fishery
Conservation and Management Act.
Fishing by U.S. vessels is governed by
regulations implementing the FMP at 50
CFR parts 620 and 675.

In accordance with § 675.20(a)(7)(ii),
the Final 1996 Harvest Specifications of
Groundfish (61 FR 4311, February 5,
1996) for the BSAI established 2,571
metric tons (mt) as the initial total
allowable catch of Pacific ocean perch
for the Eastern Aleutian District. At the
same time, the directed fishery for
Pacific ocean perch in the Eastern
Aleutian District was closed to directed
fishing under § 675.20(a)(8) in order to
reserve amounts anticipated to be

needed for incidental catch in other
fisheries. NMFS has determined that as
of February 10, 1996, 2,485 mt remain
unharvested.

The Director, Alaska Region, NMFS,
has determined that the 1996 TAC for
Pacific ocean perch in the Eastern
Aleutian District has not been reached.
Therefore, NMFS is terminating the
previous closure and is reopening
directed fishing for Pacific ocean perch
in the Eastern Aleutian District.

All other closures remain in full force
and effect.

Classification

This action is taken under § 675.20
and is exempt from review under E.O.
12866.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

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